

Having described the invention, we claim:

1. A system for enabling a mobile data acquisition device, said system comprising:

a software application for use with the mobile data acquisition device, the software application being located on a remote computer,

the remote computer transferring the software application from the remote computer to the mobile data acquisition device,

the remote computer installing and activating the software application for use by the mobile data acquisition device, the software application being determined by a user and replacing a factory default software application.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the remote computer enables a first set of applications for the mobile data acquisition device, the first set of applications being defined by a first User Role.

3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the remote computer disables the first set of applications and enables a second set of applications for the mobile data

acquisition device, the second set of applications being defined by a second User Role.

4. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device includes a User Role selection module, an application list module, and an application selection module.

5. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the User Role selection module displays a list of User Roles for the user.

6. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the application list module maintains a list of available software applications for the mobile data acquisition device.

7. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the application selection module maintains a list of enabled software applications for the mobile data acquisition devices.

8. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the mobile data acquisition device disables a software

application no longer needed by the mobile data acquisition device.

9. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the remote computer maintains an application installation log for determining software applications enabled at a given time.

10. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the remote computer requests an application activation file from the mobile data acquisition device.

11. A system for enabling a software application, said system comprising:

a data acquisition device for use with the software application;

a remote computer for transmitting the software application from said remote computer to said data acquisition device,

said remote computer installing and activating the software application for use by said data acquisition device, said data acquisition device having the capability of disabling a software application of said data acquisition device.

12. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said remote computer initiates transfer of the software application subsequent to said data acquisition device sending an application activation file to said remote computer.

13. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said remote computer removes invalid applications from an application activation file.

14. The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein said data acquisition device acknowledges receipt of the software application from the remote computer.

15. A computer program product for enabling a software application, said computer program product comprising:

- a first instruction for initiating communication between a mobile device and a remote computer;

- a second instruction for requesting the state of the mobile device by the remote computer;

- a third instruction for responding to the remote computer by the mobile device with a factory default state

message;

a fourth instruction for initiating transfer of a software application from the remote computer to the mobile device; and

a fifth instruction for acknowledging receipt of the software application from the remote computer by the mobile device thereby enabling the software application at the mobile device.

16. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a sixth instruction for changing a status of the mobile device from a "factory default" state to an "operational" state.

17. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a sixth instruction for rebooting the mobile device.

18. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a sixth instruction for running the software application on the mobile device.

19. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a sixth instruction for sending

an application activation file from the mobile device to the remote computer.

20. The computer program product as set forth in claim 15 further including a sixth instruction for ceasing communication between the mobile device and the remote computer.